

OUR LADY'S,
ST JOHN'S WOOD &
OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY,
MARYLEBONE

54 Lodge Road, NW8 8LA
020 7286 3214

parish.rcdow.org.uk/stjohnswood
parish.rcdow.org.uk/marylebone

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SERVICE TIMES

St John's Wood

Sunday Mass

6:00pm (Sat, Sung Latin),
9:00am (Sung),
12:15pm (Sung),
6:00pm

Weekday Mass

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday &
Saturday 10:00am

Confessions

Saturday 10:30am - 11:00am
5:15pm - 5:45pm

Adoration

Saturday 10.30am - 11.00am.

Marylebone

Sunday Mass

10:45am (Sung)

Weekday Mass

Monday & Wednesday 12:30pm,
Friday 6:30pm

Confessions & Adoration

Friday 5:30pm - 6:20pm

+ SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
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Don't Try this at Home...Yet

I said to the children and staff from St Joseph's school and the others at Mass last week that it's best not to try and lead a lion nor play over a hole of a poisonous snake. Good advice for all of us really. And yet Isaiah's vision of God restoring creation and healing division shows these things will be possible in the harmony of His Kingdom.

Obviously, given it is Advent, Isaiah is referring to the birth of Christ "from the stump of Jesse." (Is 11:1-10). In that time of political failure and spiritual discouragement in which the prophet wrote, he proclaims that God has not abandoned His people. From what looks even lifeless, God brings new life because the coming Messiah will be filled with the Spirit of wisdom, understanding, counsel, and fear of the Lord. Under His reign, natural enemies will coexist in peace, an image that reaches beyond nature into our own divisions, resentments, and fears. This vision assures us that God intends not merely to improve the world but to transform it.

St. Paul encourages everyone to trust that God is working, even when change seems slow, and urges the community to live in harmony now, welcoming one another as Christ has welcomed them. The Messiah foretold by Isaiah

is not just for Israel but will eventually draw all nations into God's mercy. And John the Baptist, announcing that this kingdom is near, calls for a change of heart deep enough to bear fruit through the Holy Spirit and testing by fire. Thus, Advent hope is not passive waiting but active preparation, a willingness to let God purify what is damaged within us.

All this brings us to Monday's feast of the Immaculate Conception which fully embodies Advent hope. In Mary, preserved from sin from the first moment of her existence, we see what humanity looks like when it is totally open to God. She shines as a living sign of what God's grace can accomplish when allowed to work freely in a human heart. As St. Ambrose says, "Mary's life is a rule of life for all." She is the first flourishing branch of the new creation foretold by Isaiah and fulfilled in Christ. Her "yes" should become the model to which we aspire in this holy season. Each of today's readings opens a window onto a hope, a real hope that as we allow Christ to prune away what is dead and ignite what is lukewarm, He will lead us to the unity, peace, and holiness of God's Kingdom. And in that true home, all will be able to safely try what Isaiah prophesies is possible. *Canon Kevin*

CONTACT INFORMATION

Parish Clergy

Canon Kevin Jordan
kevinjordan@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Sister

Sr Brigid Collins, RSM
brigid@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Administrator

Kathleen Reddington
stjohnswood@rcdow.org.uk
marylebone@rcdow.org.uk

Bookkeeper (both parishes)

Asha Stephen
stjohnswoodbookkeeper@rcdow.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding Rep

Frances Uchea (both parishes)
stjohnswoodsg@
safeguardrcdow.org.uk

Musical Director (SJW)

Martin Toyer
martintoyer@rcdow.org.uk

PARISH DIARY

Children's Liturgy of the Word

SJW - 9:00am, term time
MB - 10:45am,
7, 14 & 21 December,

Tea and Coffee

SJW- after 9:00am Mass,
term time
MB - 14 December

Parent/Toddler Group - SJW Upper hall

9:30am - 11:30am Tuesday,
Wednesday & Thursday,

Legion of Mary - MB

after 12:30pm Mass,
Wednesdays

PARISH NOTICES

An Advent and Christmastide Leaflet with the times of all Masses, and confessions for those seasons is available to take home with you today. Please give them out to people who might be thinking of coming to our parishes.

Christmas Offering. This week you can take home a Christmas offertory envelope. This is your Christmas gift to the parish and is not taxed by the Diocese, so if you are going away please do use it. Thank you for your kindness, thoughtfulness and generosity throughout the year.

Readers and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. Even though there is a rota for Christmas, we know that some of you will be away so we thought it might be easier if you volunteered on the list which is outside the sacristy in St John's Wood and inside the sacristy in Marylebone. Servers should check with their parents and then indicate their availability on the list also. God bless you for your generous service.

For those in both parishes applying to Catholic nursery, infant and junior schools, Canon Kevin will be available to sign the certificate of Catholic practice on Friday 12, Tuesday 16 December and Tuesday 6 January. Please contact the parish office to arrange an appointment.

The Children's Liturgy team at St John's Wood is happy to welcome all children and families for a community Christmas festivity in the parish hall on Sunday 14 December after the 9:00am Mass.

Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) carol concert takes place on Wednesday 17 December at the Brompton Oratory. Tickets are free. There is an option to purchase a ticket for refreshments after. Please see the poster in the porches.

The Christmas Big Clean needs you to help give an added sparkle to our well-kept church and sanctuary in St John's Wood. Please come along to the church on Wednesday 17 December at 6:00pm followed by festive refreshments. Ana will be coordinating the clean so our church is pristine for Christmas. All are needed and welcome. Remember, 'many hands make light work.'

SVP are distributing over 10,000 Vinnie Packs containing cold weather essentials to the homeless and those spending the principal part of their day on the streets. Each pack contains thermal gloves, a thermal hat, two pairs of socks, a flannel, toothbrush, toothpaste, an information sheet and pen. Please would you consider sponsoring packs at a suggested donation of £4.10 per pack? Donations can be sent to Vinnie Packs, PO Box 72264, London SW1P 9EZ with cheques made out to SVP or by bank transfer to Nat West sort code 60-60-04, account number 46088237. Thank you so much for your support.

Planned Giving Envelopes for the new tax year will commence on 12 April 2026. If you have a set of envelopes and no longer use them or would like to have a set of planned giving envelopes for the new tax year, please let Asha in the parish office know. However, standing orders are the easiest way to contribute to the church. Both planned giving envelopes and standing orders will allow your contributions to be gift-aided. This means that the parish can claim an extra 25p for every £1 you give. It will not cost you any extra. Please contact Asha, the bookkeeper, if you have any questions regarding planning your giving to our parishes.

Job Vacancies. For details regarding diocesan job vacancies, please visit <https://jobs.rcdow.org.uk>.